

Kansas Rehabilitation Services

State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation & Supported Employment Services FFY 2011-2013

Attachment 4.8(b)(1) Cooperative agreements with agencies not carrying out activities under the Statewide Workforce Investment System

Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) collaborates and coordinates services with federal, state and local employment and rehabilitation agencies that contribute to the vocational rehabilitation (VR) of Kansans with disabilities.

At the local level such collaborations are individualized according to each person's needs and interests. This individualized approach is one of the cornerstones of VR services.

At the state level, KRS collaborates with other units within the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) and with other state departments. For example:

- KRS and DCF Economic and Employment Services collaborate to serve recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who have disabilities. Consumers benefit by being able to receive the coordinated and specialized services they need to achieve employment before their time-limited TANF benefits cease.
- KRS and DCF Prevention and Protection Services will coordinate to address the employment and/or post-secondary education needs of youth with disabilities who have been in foster.
- Cooperative working relationships between the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services oversight units for community developmental disability organizations and community mental health centers facilitate discussions about the importance of competitive, integrated employment, an employment-first strategy, evidence-based practices, and supported employment services.

- KRS maintains an active presence on numerous councils and committees, including:
 - The Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas.
 - The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns.
 - The Kansas Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities.
 - The Vocational Sub-Committee of the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council.
 - The Governor's Commission on Autism.
 - The Working Healthy (Medicaid buy-in program) Advisory Council.
- A memorandum of understanding with the Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation VR program addresses the coordination of services to help consumers achieve employment.
- To maximize limited resources and to help consumers access needed services, KRS works cooperatively with numerous other local and state programs, including Working Healthy and independent living centers.
- KRS collaborates with the Department of Corrections and individual correctional institutions to assist individuals with disabilities who are being released from custody to become employed.

New initiatives

KRS continues to work with a variety of service provider organizations to expand community-capacity to meet the employment service needs and goals of Kansans who are blind or visually impaired. A systems change initiative with community developmental disability organizations or their affiliates, the University of Kansas Developmental Disabilities Center and Virginia Commonwealth University addresses competitive, integrated employment as the preferred outcome within that service delivery system, rather than sheltered employment or non-work day activities.

Rural economic development and state use contracts

When consistent with the Rehabilitation Act and regulations, KRS may use the Rural Development Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the extent these programs are available to local communities.

Interaction with state use contracting programs is consistent with the Rehabilitation Act and regulations.